

926 Grand Ave
Rockford Ill
Jan 30th
1899

My dear Mr Watson.

After the description of *Salix cordata* - strike out entirely the remark concerning the "Diamond Willow" excepting merely the habitat. The var vestita Aud is a good variety - and its home appears to be on the Missouri - but I prefer to avoid all mention of the "Diamond Willow" 1) Because I find that other forms of *cordata* produce diamonds - 2) because the var. vestita does not by any means invariably produce them - 3) because I suspect a big humbug at the bottom of this Diamond Willow business anyway - The largest growth I have ever seen of it was a stem about 2 1/2 inches in diameter - exhibiting in the neighborhood of twenty annual rings - not much encouragement to grow "fence posts as durable as red cedar"

at that rate - I am sure of the
var vestita - and some of its
habitat - that is all - and it
were worse than useless to clutter
up a Manual with anything more

In the description of S. glaucophy-
lla - phrase "leaves intensely glaucous
beneath" strike out the word
intensely!

I hope you may see
your way clear before long. To
give my MS. a careful revision -
I should like to have a little
time to consider your ^{suggestions} ~~criticisms~~ -
and congratulate myself that the
work before us meets the public
eye is to have the benefit of
friendly and experienced criticism.

I will not abuse the privilege
concerning the barbarism granted in
your note of the 23rd inst just at
hand - I will keep with my tracings
the little fragments of capsules, stamens
&c. which I have already in some
cases been taken for examination under
the microscope -

I have noted deficiencies
(of which a list is preserved)
that it will give me great
pleasure to fill up. By & by when
I get at such work -

After the retirement of Sir
Joseph D. Hooker (whose friendliness
and helpfulness were a perpetual
surprise to me when I considered
his manifold duties) I felt as
if I had lost my chance of
finding much assistance for
Kew. My only letter, addressed to Mr
Christleton-Dyer reached the herbarium
in the absence of the director - and
the reply came as near amounting
to nothing as it well could - Then
I brought me of Mr Baker -
Of and on we had known each
other in a distant way ever
since the days when he was
curator of the Irish Bot. Soc. Club -
and I was making specimens
for exchange by the thousands.
Now I have occasion - often -
to congratulate myself on

my good fortune. He is
just the man for me.
- knows willows better than any one
else who has ever examined
the herbarium for me - is
quick to see a point - seems
to appreciate, instructively, just
the information desired - and so
on -

I am not feeling very
well for a few days past -
- a bad cold piled on top of
chronic bronchitis has taken
the spark all out of me -

Cardially

W. S. Felt